

It is because of their bravery that many of us knew 9/11 would not be the downfall of our great nation, despite what those who attacked us intended.

While 9/11 is a day of great solemnity, it is also a moment of pride. Our reaction as a country to those events—both during the events and afterward—reveals much about us as a people. Our enemies thought they could break our spirit and crush our will, but they failed to realize our resolve and resilience. As President George Bush said only days later, “America today is on bended knee, in prayer for the people whose lives were lost here, for the workers who work here, for the families that mourn.” They sought to divide us, but they mistook the strength of our convictions for the inability to act and the wisdom of liberty for frailty of arms. And they certainly failed to understand the breadth of our unity, as embodied in the partnership between Colleyville’s public servants and Heritage High School in putting on this event.

As we look back on the 10 years since the attacks, we are reminded that the United States still faces enemies who spread fear and hate through terrorism and brutality. Congress, the Presidency, and the Federal Government have an obligation and duty to protect our Nation. We have made great strides since that terrible day, but there is still much to be done.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF  
PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL WAR-  
FARE OPERATOR MATTHEW  
DAVID MASON

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2011*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Matthew David Mason who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Chief Mason was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our Nation. He will be greatly missed.

Chief Mason was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including three Bronze Star Medals with Valor, including one for extraordinary heroism, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Valor, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, two Combat Action Ribbons, two Presidential Unit Citations, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Chief Mason is survived by his family, friends, and teammates.

His Nation owes Chief Mason enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Chief Mason’s family, friends, and teammates and

hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful Nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. SHELLEY  
ROBERTS’ DECADES OF SERVICE  
TO THE BIRMINGHAM COMMU-  
NITY HOUSE AND GREATER  
SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN COMMU-  
NITY

**HON. GARY C. PETERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2011*

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Shelley Roberts, President and CEO of the Community House in Birmingham, Michigan, as she is honored with the Community House’s 2011 Community Service Award.

Ms. Roberts has had a long and illustrious career which has spanned both the public and private sectors. For many years prior to her career in the non-profit public sector, Ms. Roberts was employed as an attorney with Dickinson Wright, beginning as an associate and after much hard work, became an equity partner. After her time with the firm, Ms. Roberts went on to work in development for Orchards Children’s Services and the Jewish Federation of Detroit, before joining the Community House in 1998.

Ms. Roberts’ support of the Community House and its mission extends to well before she joined as its CEO thirteen years ago. Prior to that, she served on its board, undertaking many different responsibilities during her tenure, such as serving as President between 1988 and 1990, where she oversaw the renovation of the Community House and as chair of its Community Advisory and Child Care Advisory Boards.

Under Ms. Roberts’ leadership the Community House has been recognized by many community stakeholders for the work it has done to develop cross-cultural dialogue and foster a healthy, productive community. As President and CEO, Ms. Roberts has continued to emphasize the Community House’s Race Relations Diversity Task Force and 21st Century Leaders program; both are designed to foster cross-cultural dialogue. She has continued to strengthen its scholarship programs which provide students with the ability to further their arts education. Among the awards Community House has received are New Detroit’s Closing the Gap Award and the South Oakland NAACP’s Outstanding Community Award for the Community House’s support of multicultural programs which have furthered interracial dialogue and understanding. Additionally, the Community House has been recognized as one of the “101 Best Places to Work” by Metropolitan Detroit.

While serving in her professional role with the Community House, Ms. Roberts has continued to be an active volunteer leader in the community, investing considerable energy and time into supporting other community agencies and groups. During her volunteer service, Ms. Roberts has served on the boards of the Alzheimer’s Association, Common Ground and Planned Parenthood. As an active member of her immediate community, Ms. Roberts also

served as President of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Roberts’ most current volunteer endeavors include work as a member of the boards of Children’s Home, Big D and YouthVille in Detroit, as well as several organizations involving New Detroit.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that Ms. Roberts is being honored so publicly by the Community House for her many decades of volunteer service, not just to the Community House, but for her work with many organizations across Southeast Michigan. Ms. Roberts’ decades of work have undoubtedly impacted the lives of so many across the Southeast Michigan region and I wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

TEN YEARS AFTER: REMEM-  
BERING THE VICTIMS OF 9/11

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2011*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, this week our nation paused to mark the 10th anniversary of al Qaeda’s attack on America. When we remember September 11th, we remember our fear, our shock, our disbelief, our grief. We remember images we wish we could forget. We remember loved ones we wish we could visit just once more. We remember how those who lost a family member channeled their grief and anger into a positive force for change.

In retrospect, we know our fears and our reaction to them were exaggerated. We allowed ourselves to become more suspicious and distrustful, more militant, more divided. And yet September 11th was not only among our darkest hours, but also among our finest.

I remember Todd Beamer of Cranbury, who, along with the other passengers on Flight 93, gave his life to prevent another airplane being used as a weapon against the Capitol or the White House. I also remember “the Jersey Girls”—Kristen Breitweiser, Patty Casazza, Lorie Van Auken, and Mindy Kleinberg—who along with other family members successfully fought to have the 9/11 Commission created. These men and women of 9/11—those who died and those who guard their legacy—remind us all what is great and good about our Nation and its people.

Yet I feel hopeful. September 11th was not only among our darkest hours, but also among our finest. Strangers guided strangers away from the collapsing towers. Across the country, lines stretched around the block of men and women waiting to give blood. For at least a moment, we saw our conflicts and rivalries as what they truly are: small and earnest differences among the brothers and sisters of the American family.

Tragedy has a way of bringing people closer together. It doesn’t minimize our differences; it magnifies everything we have in common.

I am hopeful today because I believe that, in spite of all the challenges we face, we still have so much in common. We still remain capable of such great things. As we remember our grief, I hope we also remember our unity—and realize that we are bound together as tightly today as we were a decade ago.